



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Emergency responders continue to monitor air at train derailment

BATON ROUGE – The cleanup of railcars and the remnants of spilled molten sulfur continues at the Bayou Plaquemine Bridge near Plaquemine. And, as long as the damaged railcar is on site, emergency responders from the Department of Environmental Quality will continue to take air samples.

Air and water samples to date show no adverse impacts to the environment. The department brought in its Mobile Air Monitoring Laboratory on Saturday to take additional samples. The MAML, which remained on scene over night, has the capability to take real-time samples as well as take readings from air canisters used at the site. The emergency responders are headquartered at the DEQ Mobile Command Center which has been deployed for this incident.

Early Saturday morning, five railcars derailed near the bayou. One railcar, containing molten sulfur, is leaking. The molten sulfur is leaking into the bayou where it solidifies and sinks. Presently, releases to the environment and any potential impacts are being contained at the site of the accident. There is little flow in the bayou and cleanup contractors have set out booms. The cleanup will continue as contractors recover the spilled materials. DEQ will have regulatory oversight of the cleanup.

Louisiana Highway 1 is now open.

The Louisiana State Police, Iberville Parish emergency responders and Plaquemine officials were on the scene.